

DUXBURY WAS COLD 57 YEARS AGO

Bartlett Bradley let us peek into the diary he kept 57 years ago. Here are some entries for January and February, 1920:

Jan. 4, There are 10 inches of ice on the ponds.

Jan. 5, had to shut down the grammar school on account of

coal gas. I went skating.

Jan. 9 - Snowed hard all day. About 6 inches of snow.

Jan. 13 - Went sliding up to Cowtents Hill.

Jan. 14 - Had to run to get the barge this morning. I came pretty near having to walk. Went sliding.

Jan. 15 - They shut down the school house on account of coal gas. Something wrong with the heater.

Jan. 16 - No school today on account of coal gas. Went sliding. Got a \$2 reward for finding a pocketbook in Marshfield Hills.

Jan. 17 - We were going to Boston in the car but the snow was too deep. I earned 25 cents working for Pa.

Jan. 24 - It snowed hard last night. We all started for Boston in the car this morning, got as far as Ford's Store, and gave it up.

Jan. 25 - Ice is 21 inches thick on the ponds. No automobiles out today. Too much snow.

Jan. 26 - They couldn't get the jitney through the snow so we all went to school in Merry's pung.

Jan. 31 - It was 8 below zero at 8 a.m.

Feb. 5 - No school today on account of the storm. There is a strong northeast wind blowing. Everybody says it's the worst day of the year.

Feb. 6 - No school today. They couldn't get a team or pung through the streets. There is a thick crust on top of the snow hard enough to hold a man.

Feb. 7 - They had to run a harrow and 4 horses along the streets to break up the crust. 4 engines and 3 cars are stalled on account of snow this side of Greenbush.

Feb. 8 - 3 engines and a snowplow are off the track in Island Creek headed this way. 5 trains are blocked by the snow this side of Weymouth.

Feb. 9 - Charlie Edwards and I walked to Island Creek to see the engines and snowplow but it had gone back to Plymouth. It couldn't plow through the snow. No school.

Feb. 10 - The section men have been breaking the crust along the

To back page

from page 23

track so the snowplow can get through. They used pickaxes. No school.

Feb. 11 - Charlie Edwards and I walked to Marshfield to see an engine that tipped over on its side trying to push through the snow. No school.

Feb. 12 - Walked to Marshfield and back to see the wrecking crew lift the engine back on the track, but it didn't work. The engineer of the locomotive that tipped over lost his leg and got badly scalded. No school.

Feb. 13 - It rained all day.

Feb. 14 - 2 engines pushing a snowplow finally came through Duxbury. A wrecking engine cleared away the wreck in Marshfield. We had a newspaper today, the first we have had since Feb. 4.

Feb. 15 - Went sliding with Eliot Spalding. All ice. The first train since Feb. 4 came this morning.

Feb. 22 - It snowed again last night. A snowplow and one engine went through here.

Feb. 25 - Snowed hard this morning. No school. A snowplow went through Duxbury this morning.

Feb. 26 - The snow has been drifting all day. Mother went to Boston but could only get home as far as Greenbush on account of the snow.

Feb. 27 - Some trains got stuck in the snow somewhere between Plymouth and Boston.

Feb. 28 - Worked 4 hours digging snow. It started snowing again tonight. The 5:30 train from Boston was 2 1/2 hours late.

Feb. 29 - Pa paid me \$3.38 for digging snow. It snowed a little this afternoon.